

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

Claims 1-15 (*Cancelled*).

16. (*Previously presented*) A method of sharing resources of a broadband telephony system, the method comprising:

registering with a registrar database information from a plurality of user-provided gateways, each gateway coupled to a broadband data network and one of a plurality of regional telephone networks, and each of the plurality of regional telephone networks coupled to more than one gateway;

storing in the registrar database correlation information associating each of a plurality of audio interfaces and each gateway with one of the plurality of regional telephone networks;

exchanging with a plurality of other users, use of one user-provided gateway as a remote network-terminating gateway for access to the registrar database and use of other user-provided gateways as remote terminating gateways; and

restricting use to the plurality of other users, of a user's gateway as a remote network-terminating gateway to a pre-determined maximum elapsed time differential between a duration of calls originated by the user's gateway and a duration of calls terminated by the user's gateway.

17. (*Previously presented*) A method of sharing resources of a broadband telephony system, the method comprising:

registering with a registrar database information from a plurality of user-provided gateways, each gateway coupled to a broadband data network and one of a plurality of regional telephone networks, and each of the plurality of regional telephone networks coupled to more than one gateway;

storing in the registrar database correlation information associating each of a plurality of audio interfaces and each gateway with one of the plurality of regional telephone networks;

exchanging with a plurality of other users, use of one user-provided gateway as a remote network-terminating gateway for access to the registrar database and use of other user-provided gateways as remote terminating gateways; and

restricting use of a user's gateway as a call-originating gateway to a pre-determined maximum elapsed time differential between a duration of calls originated by the user's gateway and a duration of calls terminated by the user's gateway.